

Appl. No. 10/737,002
Amdt. dated January 12, 2005
Reply to Office Action of October 14, 2004

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A shaving apparatus handle, comprising:
 - an interior cavity operable to store flowable shaving aid material, the interior cavity having a first end and a second end lengthwise;
 - a housing having one or more ports mounted on the handle, the one or more ports being in fluid communication with at least a portion of the interior cavity;
 - an actuator disposed within the interior cavity, the actuator including a ratchet mechanism mounted between the first and second ends of the interior cavity, a button movably positioned between the ratchet mechanism and the first end of the interior cavity, a piston having a piston head coupled to a piston body, and a button spring operable to bias the button towards the first end of the interior cavity; and
 - wherein the ratchet mechanism and the button are operable to work in concert to move the piston uni-directionally toward the second end of the interior cavity through a series of distinct positions.
2. (Original) The shaving apparatus handle of claim 1, wherein the interior cavity has a cross-sectional shape that mates with a cross-sectional shape of the piston head.
3. (Original) The shaving apparatus handle of claim 1, wherein the interior cavity includes a button retainer operable to prevent the button from being expelled from the interior cavity.
4. (Original) The shaving apparatus handle of claim 1, wherein a flexible bladder operable to store a flowable shaving aid material is disposed in the interior cavity.
5. (Original) The shaving apparatus handle of claim 4, wherein the flexible bladder, when filled, has a shape that is complimentary to the interior cavity.
6. (Original) The shaving apparatus handle of claim 1, wherein the actuator is operable to decrease the volume of the interior cavity between the piston head and the second end of the interior cavity.

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7. (Original) The shaving apparatus handle of claim 1, wherein the ratchet mechanism includes an aperture, and at least one first ratchet element disposed within the aperture; and at least a portion of an outer surface of the piston body includes a plurality of second complimentary ratchet elements, the first and second ratchet elements being complimentary.

8. (Currently amended) The shaving apparatus handle of claim 7, wherein the plurality of second ratchet elements are ~~asymmetrical~~ form notches.

9. (Currently amended) The shaving apparatus handle of claim 1, wherein the ratchet mechanism includes an aperture;
the button includes an interior cavity; and
the piston is positioned in the interior ~~housing~~ cavity such that the piston head is positioned between the ratchet mechanism and the second end of the interior cavity, the piston body passes through the aperture in the ratchet mechanism and a first end of the piston body is at least partially inserted into the interior cavity of the button.

10. (Original) The shaving apparatus handle of claim 9, wherein the piston head is coupled to a second end of the piston body by a piston spring.

11. (Currently amended) The shaving apparatus handle of claim 1, further comprising a protrusion in the interior cavity between the ratchet mechanism and the button; and
wherein the button spring is disposed between ~~disposed between~~ the protrusion and the button.

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12. (Original) A shaving apparatus, comprising:

a handle having an interior cavity operable to store flowable shaving aid material, the interior cavity having a first end and a second end lengthwise;

a housing having one or more ports mounted on the handle;

a razor cartridge having one or more razor blades mounted to the housing adjacent at least one port;

an actuator disposed within the interior cavity, the actuator including a ratchet mechanism mounted between the first and second ends of the interior cavity, a button movably positioned between the ratchet mechanism and the first end of the interior cavity, a piston having a piston head coupled to a piston body, and a button spring operable to bias the button towards the first end of the interior cavity; and

wherein the ratchet mechanism and the button are operable to work in concert to move the piston uni-directionally toward the second end of the interior cavity through a series of distinct positions.

13. (Original) The shaving apparatus of claim 12, wherein the interior cavity has a cross-sectional shape that mates with a cross-sectional shape of the piston head.

14. (Original) The shaving apparatus of claim 12, wherein the interior cavity includes a button retainer operable to prevent the button from being expelled from the interior cavity.

15. (Original) The shaving apparatus of claim 12, wherein a flexible bladder operable to store a flowable shaving aid material is disposed in the interior cavity of the handle.

16. (Original) The shaving apparatus of claim 15, wherein the flexible bladder, when filled, has a shape that is complimentary to the interior cavity of the handle.

17. (Original) The shaving apparatus of claim 12, wherein the actuator is operable to decrease the volume of the interior cavity between the piston head and the second end of the interior cavity.

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18. (Original) The shaving apparatus of claim 12, wherein the ratchet mechanism includes an aperture and at least one first ratchet element disposed within the aperture; and

at least a portion of an outer surface of the piston body includes a plurality of second complimentary ratchet elements, the first and second ratchet elements being complimentary.

19. (Currently amended) The shaving apparatus of claim 18, wherein the plurality of second ratchet elements are ~~asymmetrical~~ form notches.

20-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently amended) The shaving apparatus of claim 12, wherein the ratchet mechanism includes an aperture;

the button includes an interior cavity; and

the piston is positioned in the interior ~~housing~~ cavity such that the piston head is positioned between the ratchet mechanism and the second end of the interior cavity, the piston body passes through the aperture in the ratchet mechanism and a first end of the piston body is at least partially inserted into the interior cavity of ~~the~~ button.

23. (Original) The shaving apparatus of claim 22, wherein the piston head is coupled to a second end of the piston body by a piston spring.

24. (Currently amended) The shaving apparatus of claim 12, further comprising a protrusion in the interior cavity between the ratchet mechanism and the button; and

wherein the button spring ~~being~~ is disposed between ~~disposed between~~ the protrusion and the button.